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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FRANKLIN K. LANE, SECRETARY
U. S. RECLAMATION SERVICE
ARTHUR P. DAVIS, DIRECTOR

WORK AND HOMES FOR OUR FIGHTING MEN

President Wilson Urges Support Of The Plan
Secretary Lane Tells What The Plan Is
The Pending Bill Which, If Passed, Will Make The Plan A Reality
Suggested Bill For Cooperation Between The States And The United States
Letters Of Inquiry From Our Fighting Men
What Other Nations Are Doing

WASHINGTON
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PRESIDENT WILSON URGES SUPPORT OF SECRETARY LANE'S PLAN.

EMPLOYMENT FOR RETURNED SOLDIERS.

The ordinary and normal processes of private initiative will not, however, provide immediate employment for all of the men of our returning Armies. Those who are of trained capacity, those who are skilled workmen, those who have acquired familiarity with established businesses, those who are ready and willing to go to the farms, all those whose aptitudes are known or will be sought out by employers will find no difficulty, it is safe to say, in finding place and employment. But there will be others who will be at a loss where to gain a livelihood unless pains are taken to guide them and put them in the way of work. There will be a large floating residuum of labor which should not be left wholly to shift for itself. It seems to me important, therefore, that the development of public works of every sort should be promptly resumed, in order that opportunities should be created for unskilled labor in particular, and that plans should be made for such developments of our unused lands and our natural resources as we have hitherto lacked stimulation to undertake.

PLANS FOR RECLAIMING LAND.

I particularly direct your attention to the very practical plans which the Secretary of the Interior has developed in his annual report and before your committees for the reclamation of arid, swamp, and cut-over lands which might, if the States were willing and able to cooperate, redeem some 300,000,000 acres of land for cultivation. There are said to be fifteen or twenty million acres of land in the West, at present arid, for whose reclamation water is available, if properly conserved. There are about 230,000,000 acres from which the forests have been cut but which have never yet been cleared for the plow and which lie waste and desolate. These lie scattered all over the Union. And there are nearly 80,000,000 acres of land that lie under swamps or subject to periodical overflow or too wet for anything but grazing which it is perfectly feasible to drain and protect and redeem. The Congress can at once direct thousands of the returning soldiers to the reclamation of the arid lands which it has already undertaken if it will but enlarge the plans and the appropriations which it has intrusted to the Department of the Interior. It is possible in dealing with our unused land to effect a great rural and agricultural development which will afford the best sort of opportunity to men who want to help themselves; and the Secretary of the Interior has thought the possible methods out in a way which is worthy of your most friendly attention.

Woodrow Wilson

(From the President's Address to Congress, Dec. 2, 1918.)

THE RETURNING SOLDIER.[1]

By Franklin K. Lane, Secretary of the Interior.

Soon, almost immediately now, the men whom we have drawn into war will return. Already those here are being prepared for their reabsorption into the normal currents of our life and the two million and more who have had the glory and the experience of making war upon foreign soil in protection of the liberties of the world will be brought back as soon as their work is done. With conditions as fluent as they are in Europe I presume that no one can foretell when the last man will be once more in America, but whatever the day of their coming their welcome can not be too warm or our appreciation of their service too hearty.

And the question is pertinent: What shall that welcome be? Is it to be merely one of glad greetings, the emotional outburst of a moment, or shall it take on a more permanent form, one which will be adequate in its largeness and lasting in its nature? I am quite sure that we can make of this event something that is real, something exceptional and of the most permanent value to the men and to the Nation.

No one can tell what such an experience will have done for these boys. They have not seen the picture of the war in the broad view that has been given us from day to day. The map which we have studied has not been theirs. To them the sector on which they fought, the valley up which they marched, the ruined villages which they saw, the narrow trench in which they lived, the desolate blasted foreground of No Man's Land—these composed their picture. Life has been a series of incidents, sobering, strengthening, horrifying, democratizing. Through these they will have grown, all of them. They will come back other than they went. They have lived through years in the months they have been gone. They may not have gained the larger view of the great war, being too near to see, but they will have gained a new view of America.

They will return home as victors; proud, no doubt, and becomingly modest, with a new sense of their individual power and new tests set up in their minds as to the qualities which make a man. We will hold them at arm's length and look into their eyes to see what change war has made upon them, the doing of daring things, the taking of ordered risks, the prompt recognition of authority, the steady, long companionship of their fellows, the sight and enduring of suffering, the hard life of dust and mud and weary walking and long, sleepless nights. We will look hard into the sunburned, hardened faces to see what the strange life of a few months has done to these boys, these youngsters of but a day ago. They will resent, maybe, as soldiers should, the soft sympathizings that will be poured out upon them, just as they will make light of all that they have done. But out of every mouth and from every heart will come the words, "Well, home sure looks good to me!"

[1] From annual report for fiscal year ended June 30, 1918.

"WHAT IS TO BE MY CHANCE?"

They will be looking at us, too! And in their look will be a query, one thought over in the trench at night and on the long, slow "slog, slog, slog," of the day's march: "What is my life to be when I get home? Am I to go hustling for a job or will the old place be mine? But if a girl has that place and wishes to be her own mistress in the future—what then? School? Oh, I can't go back to school. When I left I was only 21, but now I'm 31. And I have lived with men, fought with them, been sometimes bested by them, learned to know them in all their many littlenesses and their great goodnesses. Responsibility has been mine, and the still silences of the night have given me chance to think and wonder why I am and why it should make any difference whether I ever saw home again or not. I am back now, back for a man's life. This America that called me out has called me back, and it will have something for me to do. Now, what is to be my chance?" This will all be implied in the look that they give us as we hold them by both shoulders to find the mark of war upon their young faces. And what is to be our answer? What answer is due them, and what answer is worthy of us?

Being Americans and being young, they will not ask or expect pensions. They will want work. They will want, if possible, a chance for a home of their own. They would like to know that while perhaps the fortunes of war did not so turn as to bestow on them the medal for distinguished service, the Nation which they served thought well enough of what they had done to give them some evidence of its appreciation.

Now, these hopes, reasonable and manly as they are, can be met, and in a fashion that will not weaken the fiber of the man, by making him an object of bounty, and that will add permanently to the strength and the wealth of the Nation.

Why not say to this inquiring soldier man: America offers you a farm if you will help in its making and pay for it out of what you make out of it.

This can be done, and, if it were, it would solve, or tend largely to solve, several problems:

(1) That of the immediate job for the man himself.

(2) That of protecting the labor market against any possible collapse by being swamped with a surplus of labor.

(3) That of providing for many lines of reestablished industry an immediate demand for their products.

(4) That of staying the movement toward the cities and thus more completely decentralizing our population.

(5) That of affixing to our soil a large number of the best-proved Americans.

(6) That of setting up throughout the land the most modern pattern of farm settlement in which the social side of human nature is given consideration.

(7) That of bringing into use those great areas of our land which now lie neglected and of no value to the world.

All of these objects, I apprehend, will be deemed worthy, desirable, and of great concern to the Nation. The questions that arise in the mind will not involve the value of doing these things, but the practicability of such a program.

CONGRESS MAKES THE FIRST MOVE.

To meet this objection, I would recall to your attention the fact that all that I have urged is an extension on a large scale, and somewhat more elaborately, of just what this department has been doing for the past 16 years, through the activities of the Reclamation Service. And Congress has already taken the first step in the direction pointed out by appropriating $200,000 for an examination into the reclaimable land resources of the country, one half that sum to be expended for a survey of possible irrigation projects and the other half for an examination of those lands which need to be drained and of those huge tracts of lands which once were forests, but now are neither forest, pasture, nor farms, the logged-off lands of North, East, West, and South. As soon as this appropriation was made the country was divided into three zones, and engineers were set at work gathering the data which Congress desired.

We are prepared to make report to Congress forthwith, giving a general picture of the extent and nature of these lands and advising as to the practicability of their reclamation. In the large, it may be said that of these three classes of land we have a full 200,000,000 acres which may be converted into farms either by irrigation, drainage, or clearing.[1] These lands in greater part have passed out of the hands of the Government and are in private hands, though there are several of the largest bodies of lands needing drainage which are in the hands of the States. On the Government lands alone it would appear now to be unquestionably the fact that we could give employment to every man who would need work, and that almost immediately.

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[1] Although no complete survey has ever been made of our land resources, it is estimated that there are from 15,000,000 to 20,000,000 additional acres of at present arid land in the West for which water is available if properly conserved. There are, for example, half a million of acres in the Colorado River Basin, which need only irrigation to make them as fertile as the far-famed valley of the Nile.

By far the greater portion of our unused and unproductive lands, however, is comprised in the cut-over or logged-off timberland lying largely within the eastern half of the United States. The approximate area of these cut-over lands, by States, is shown in the following table, which has been compiled from various sources of information, such as township, county, and State officials, lumber and logging companies, and individuals well informed on this subject in their particular localities:

State.	Acres.	State.	Acres.
Alabama	14,785,000	New Jersey	1,151,000
Arkansas	13,893,000	New York	5,997,000
California	3,031,000	North Carolina	12,745,000
Florida	10,109,000	Oregon	3,537,000
Georgia	20,141,000	Pennsylvania	5,297,000
Idaho	676,000	South Carolina	8,994,000
Kentucky	3,222,000	Tennessee	7,833,000
Louisiana	11,877,000	Texas	12,936,000
Maine	6,135,000	Vermont	2,070,000
Maryland	1,848,000	Virginia	9,929,000
Michigan	11,686,000	Washington	3,330,000
Minnesota	14,022,000	West Virginia	4,634,000
Mississippi	13,203,000	Wisconsin	13,246,000
Missouri	8,900,000		
Montana	674,000	Total	228,509,000
New Hampshire	2,608,000		

In their present state these 228,509,000 acres of cut-over land are a picture of desolation calculated to discourage the hardiest pioneer. Only a vast area of stumps remains to mark the former forest, matted with underbrush and interspersed here and there with saplings. Perhaps as good an idea as any of the appearance of this waste land may be obtained from photographs of former forests which have been shattered by artillery fire. Yet when this land is cleared, leveled, and brought under the plow its soil, rich with the accumulated humus of hundreds of years, possesses extraordinary agricultural possibilities.

Lying also largely in the eastern half of the United States and overlapping the cut-over lands to some extent are some 80,000,000 acres of swamp lands. The approximate extent of these lands, by States, is shown in the table in the next column.

Where private enterprise has reclaimed small areas of swamp land, the wonderful productivity of the soil has been amply demonstrated.

Under present conditions the problem of reclaiming these vast areas of irrigable, cut-over, and swamp lands could never be solved in its entirety by private enterprise. The huge items of labor and capital involved dwarf into insignificance any work of a similar character ever before undertaken. The great public works of the Reclamation Service and of the Panama Canal, for example, stimulating as they are to our national pride in achievement, fall far short of the possibilities involved in the plan of reclaiming an area one-fifth again as large as the State of Texas.

State.	Permanent swamp.	Wet grazing land.	Periodically overflowed.	Periodically swamp.	Total.
	Acres.	*Acres.*	*Acres.*	*Acres.*	*Acres.*
Alabama	900,000	59,200	520,000		1,479,200
Arkansas	5,200,000	50,000	531,000	131,300	5,912,300
California	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,420,000		3,420,000
Connecticut		10,000	20,000		30,000
Delaware	50,000	50,000	27,000	200	127,200
Florida	18,000,000		1,000,000	800,000	19,800,000
Georgia	1,000,000		1,000,000	700,000	2,700,000
Illinois	25,000	500,000	400,000		925,000
Indiana	15,000	100,000	500,000	10,000	625,000
Iowa	300,000	200,000	350,000	80,500	930,500
Kansas		59,380	300,000		359,380
Kentucky		100,000	300,000	44,600	444,600
Louisiana	9,000,000	1,196,605			10,196,605
Maryland	100,000		92,000		192,000
Maine	156,520				156,520
Massachusetts	20,000		39,500		59,500
Michigan	2,000,000	947,439			2,947,439
Minnesota	3,048,000	2,000,000		784,308	5,832,308
Mississippi	3,000,000		2,760,200		5,760,200
Missouri	1,000,000		1,439,700		2,439,700
Nebraska		100,000	412,100		512,100
New Hampshire	5,000		7,700		12,700
New Jersey	326,400				326,400
New York	100,000	100,000	329,100		529,100
North Carolina	1,000,000	500,000	500,000	748,160	2,748,160
North Dakota	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	200,000
Ohio			100,000	55,047	155,047
Oklahoma			31,500		31,500
Oregon	254,000				254,000
Pennsylvania			50,000		50,000
Rhode Island			6,000	2,064	8,064
South Carolina	1,500,000		622,120	1,000,000	3,122,120
South Dakota	100,000		511,480		611,480
Tennessee	639,600				639,600
Texas	1,240,000	1,000,000			2,240,000
Vermont	15,000		8,000		23,000
Virginia	600,000		200,000		800,000
Washington	20,500				20,500
West Virginia			23,900		23,900
Wisconsin	2,000,000			360,000	2,360,000
Total	52,665,020	6,826,019	14,747,805	4,766,179	79,005,023

STATE COOPERATION.

But as this proposition has evolved I have found myself coming to the belief that it was not necessary to confine it to those States containing Government lands; that, on the contrary, it might fit in best with the sentiment of the country and to its greatest advantage if the plan were made adaptable to all the States, so that each State out of its unused lands might carve out farm settlements whereon, if they so chose, the soldiers returning to their home States could be located. By cooperation between the States and the Federal Government this can easily be effected. I have been surprised to discover how much land in the older States, such as Massachusetts and New York, for instance, there is that is unused, which once was tilled and which now, with modern methods of farm development and with the advantage of its nearness to the great markets, can be again profitably put to use. The commissioner of agriculture for Massachusetts has advised of land which, put under intensive cultivation, yielded last year more than $1,000 per acre net. And there are many thousands of acres of such land. In New York land by the tens of thousands of acres has been deserted and is advertised by the State, which will produce apples and other fruits of fine quality, besides all the staple cereals and vegetables, but which does not attract as against the distant and alluring lands of the West, because it requires some systematic treatment.

Within 50 miles of the city of Washington, both in the States of Maryland and Virginia, there are large bodies of lands which once were parts of great plantations that can be had for less than any lands within the same distance of most of the larger cities of the West. The mind of the country has been turned toward the development of the raw lands, the free unbroken lands, to the neglect of opportunities nearer the center of the country's markets. In almost every southern State instances can be cited where white men under the wise direction of the Department of Agriculture support their families and make an excellent living upon small farms of from 10 to 30 acres. Yet between this city and New Orleans there are over 40,000,000 acres of unused lands.

THE NEW FARM IDEA.

No one, I believe, can make a study of this question without being convinced, as I have been, that this country can support a population of from three to four times that which we now have—if the people will give over their desire to congregate in industrial centers. The passion for the city is upon us. It has come from a variety of causes—the lack of society in the country, the distance between farm homes, the remoteness from the post office and the newspaper, the assumed superior status of the "city man," the desire for better school facilities for the children, and many more which have been the theme of books without number seeking to reestablish in the heart the longing for contact with the soil. But preachments of any kind will not offset stern repellant facts. There is but one way of dealing with this problem, and that is to answer the questions that are put by developing new conditions. We must turn, as Europe has in her centuries of experience, to the farm village, the settlement of farmers around a center which is their home, in which can be gathered most of the advantages of the city—the good school, the church, the moving picture, the well-outfitted store—and these, with good roads, the rural express, the telephone, the automobile, and the post office will make life on the farm a thing of far different meaning from the isolated life it has been.

Of land, therefore, there is an abundance; land owned by the Government in the West and the South, land owned by private individuals in all the States, which is a burden to its owners and which can be had in great blocks at a very small price. It will not be for Congress to seek for advantageous places in which to locate these men; the difficulty will rather be in the choosing as between so many opportunities.

A POSSIBLE PROGRAM.

My own judgment would be that as an immediate program we should first offer an opportunity upon our present irrigation projects for all who wish work at clearing and leveling the land not now cultivated but for which water is available, or to which water can be brought under the present irrigation system, and that such tracts shall be developed under an appropriate land-settlement plan. This we can do at once and meet whatever labor problem may be immediate. As a second step I would urge an appropriation for one or more of the largest irrigation schemes for which surveys are in an advanced state. Concurrently it would seem to me wise to undertake the draining of the most promising projects—Government-owned land preferred, but, if privately owned, the land to be bought at an appraisement made by the Farm Loan Board and subject to the approval of the Department of Agriculture as to fertility of soil and desirability of location.

There is an alternative method of dealing with private lands which already has the approval of Congress, being incorporated in the reclamation act. Under this a private owner agrees to sell his land to whoever gets the water right at an appraised price as a condition precedent to our undertaking the construction of irrigation work. Under such a plan there would be no difficulty whatever in securing control of any sized bodies of cut-over or swamp lands that might be desired; the Government would not buy the land, but the owner would look to the new settler for the price, and take it on such terms as the Government itself would exact for its own expenditure upon the land. Supplementing this there should be an opportunity given for the cooperation of all the States upon limited tracts which would be dealt with under State control and subject to the closest Federal supervision. This would be an adoption in the development of farms for soldiers of the method taken by Congress for the construction of national highways.

WORKING FOR A HOME.

With such a national program under way there need be no solicitude as to caring for the returned soldier. Before he left France he could be preparing for his work. More than one-third, probably nearer one-half, it is estimated, of the men who are in Europe have come from farms. They are not farm owners, many of them were farm hands, some of them tenant farmers. Those who thought of taking up this life as independent farmers under the most modern and approved system could be given an agricultural education while still in the foreign camps. Canada, indeed, is already at this work. Then, after their return and when they have received the greetings of home, if the old position is not open or they wish to turn to an independent life, they can have their chance. For each there can be a position at the current rate of wages. The energy and the talent which he has been expending for an ideal and $30 a month he can now use to make a home for himself. There would be laid before him a number of projects which the Government had undertaken in the different sections of the country. Let us assume no more than three, one an irrigation scheme, another a drainage project, a third the development of a body of cut-over lands. The one would need to have great dams constructed to impound and divert waters, a hydroelectric plant, miles of canal and tunnel, perhaps thousands of acres to be cleared and leveled, fenced, and broken. This would mean years of work at good wages, work in the open under housing conditions that would seem palatial to the soldier of the trench, and at the end a piece of land on which would be erected a house and barn, a farm home in a group of farm homes. For this he must pay. But already he has received wages out of which he can have saved the necessary first installment on his place of 10 or 15 per cent. The balance with interest he can pay in 40 yearly installments, or earlier if he can. He should not be limited to a choice of farms upon the one project on which he works. If the life in Arizona, let us say, is not to his liking he can have the same opportunity after building the Arizona irrigated project to take up a farm upon another Government enterprise in South Carolina where men have drained the old rice swamps or in Wisconsin on a tract of what once was swamp but has been converted into rolling prairie farms.

Four things are the essence of this program—that there shall be work ready for the men on their return, that this work shall be for the making of America, that the money expended shall be returned with interest to the Government which advances it, and that the land shall be platted so as to be a part of an organized community. A farm as a going concern to be a part of a community that is a going concern—this is the ideal toward which we should work; and such settlements, a few of which already exist in Wisconsin, North Carolina, California, and elsewhere, should be the models for the future land developments of the country.

NO SLACKER LANDS.

There is one other feature which should be incorporated in any such scheme of land development—the acreage should be limited to that which will be sufficient to reasonably support a family. Revolutions come from great land holdings, and it should be the first policy of the Nation and the States to discourage in every way possible the gathering into one hand or a few hands large bodies of land. This is politically wise, socially and economically advisable. The spirit of a democracy does not thrive where men live without the hope of land ownership. There is something peculiarly subtle in the feeling that a bit of the soil is one's own. It makes for a stronger, higher citizenship. It gives birth to loyalties that are essential to national life and to a healthy home life.

To be able to say that a living is assured, no matter what one's opinion may be, is at the very center of the free life of a democracy. So these farms should not only be so small that they would not be speculative ventures in unearned increment, but they should be nontransferable to anyone holding any equally large tract of land in the same State. This will prevent their being aggregated in the course of years into great estates. To compel their use, the owner might well be required to live on the land for five years before gaining sufficient title to make any transfer, and during the full period prior to the last payment three years of idleness should make the land subject to forfeiture to the Government upon repayment of the payments which have been made. This is not suggested as an infallible nor an ultimate plan, but it would save to the Government the opportunity to hold in its own hands the fate of these lands and see that they were made to serve. We wish no slacker lands. Enough land for a family, but not enough to make a new draft on the labor supply.

I have attempted here to give a broad sketch of a plan that has found favor generally as one that meets the needs of the moment and reaches far into the problems of our Nation. It is not a fixed program, the whole of which must be taken or rejected. It has the virtue of elasticity. So much of it as is needed can be used to meet the possibilities of the next few months or years. Once entered upon, its benefits and its defects will be made manifest.

THE COST.

How great will be the cost? As much as we wish to spend; as much as we need to spend. Less than many a strike has cost this country. Would it be unreasonable to ask for as much as we will spend this year for pensions to the veterans and their dependents of wars that ended 20 and 50 years ago? Would it be unreasonable to ask that we spend in the next two years on these veterans of the great war as much as it cost us to conduct that war for a single week? Would a people that gave out of hand, out of a noble sense of charity to quasi public organi-

zations, $500,000,000 for the entertainment and care of these boys hesitate to buy the bonds of this country for a like amount to provide peace work, home work, and homes for these same boys, who will ask the question, What is to be my chance? A loan! Not a gift this time! A loan on interest. Those who deal in money tell me that this can be done. But be the amount great or small, the plan can be made to fit our needs—raise it as you please, by taxes or by a bond issue (a mortgage on the very land that it reclaims)—is there a better way to insure the future than to direct these strong-armed, big-chested soldier men into a battle against the wanton wastefulness of nature?

We have spent largely for this war and largely we must spend for many years to come. We are to economize that we may meet our debts; this must be the national policy. But to stop growth is not economy. To stand paralyzed in the presence of a debt is to become its victim. England is planning in the hundreds of millions of pounds sterling for housing and land schemes. Canada with less than 7,000,000 people is offering to each man 160 acres of land and $2,500 with which to improve it. Surely the United States, which has escaped with so slight a comparative loss in life, will not do less. There is one way to pay out, and that is by harder work and more faith. These are the reasons for our self-confidence. We shall coin work and faith into new wealth and make the new wealth meet the debts. This has been our policy from the first in all great enterprises. To waste is not sound economy; to save is; but sounder still is the economy that invests to create; this is the sowing of seed. And this land is yet but in its infancy. It has 2,000 years to run before it reaches the age of that country which still holds Verdun and is planning now the reconstruction of 350,000 homes destroyed by the invader.

There can be no surer insurance for the Nation than to put its men upon the soil, and there can be no wiser investment that a nation can make than to add to its territory by taking from desert and waters and desolation land that is now useless. Nations make war upon each other that they may have new lands—lands in tropical Africa, in remote Asia. They spend life and go deeply into debt that they may gain small domains already filled with an unprogressive people. And here, under our own flag, we have land as rich as the Valley of the Nile, not ours yet, for it does not serve us, which we can conquer with a little thought and the lending of a little money. This is conquest worthy of a democracy, giving free men their chance to make themselves economically free without the shedding of blood or the breaking of hearts.

THE BILL PENDING BEFORE CONGRESS WHICH, IF PASSED, WILL MAKE THE PLAN A REALITY.

There is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to be immediately available and to remain available until expended, the sum of one hundred million dollars, to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, for the investigation, irrigation, drainage, and development of swamp, arid, waste, and undeveloped lands for the purpose of providing employment and farms with improvements and equipment for honorably discharged soldiers, sailors, and marines of the United States, including necessary expenditures for personal services in the District of Columbia and elsewhere; purchase, maintenance, hire, and operation of motor-propelled or horse-drawn vehicles. The lands reclaimed hereunder shall be disposed of, under general regulations approved by the Secretary of the Interior, in such manner and under such terms and conditions as shall insure the reimbursement of the investment of the United States or others therein, during a term not exceeding forty years from date of entrance upon the land by the settler, together with interest from such date at four per centum per annum. The money herein appropriated shall be expended in the development of one or more projects in each of the several States, if feasible projects be found therein.

The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to make any contracts or arrangements and to do any or all acts necessary in his opinion, including the disposition of public lands, the acquisition of lands or property needed for rights of way or other purposes, in connection with the development of any project by purchase or condemnation for carrying out the purposes hereof.

SUGGESTED BILL FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN THE STATES AND THE UNITED STATES.

An Act Providing for cooperation between the State and the United States in the settlement of soldiers, sailors, marines, and others upon State lands and lands acquired under this act; creating a soldier settlement board, defining its powers and duties, and making an appropriation therefor.

SEC. 1. The object of this act is, in recognition of military service, to provide useful employment and rural homes for soldiers, sailors, marines, and others who have served with the armed forces of the United States in the European war or other wars of the United States, including former American citizens who served in allied armies against the Central Powers and have been repatriated, and who have been honorably discharged; and to accomplish such purpose by cooperation with the agencies of the United States engaged in work of a similar character. This act may be cited as "The——(*name of State*)——Soldier Settlement act."

SEC. 2. For the purposes of this act a soldier settlement board is hereby created composed of three members, one to be appointed by the governor and desig-

nated the "Soldier Settlement Commissioner," and who shall be chairman of the board and receive a salary of five thousand dollars per annum, and the two others being the president of the State Agricultural College and the State engineer (or other appropriate officials as may be desired) as *ex officio* members. The Commissioner shall hold office for five years and until his successor has been appointed and qualified. The Attorney General shall be legal advisor of the board and represent the board in any suits or actions which may arise out of the discharge of his duties.

SEC. 3. There is hereby created the "——(*name of State*)——Soldier Settlement Fund," and for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act, there is hereby appropriated the sum of———dollars which shall be covered into such fund.

SEC. 4. The board shall satisfy itself of the practicability of each project to be undertaken hereunder, utilizing all State agencies to such end. Projects may be undertaken in cooperation with the United States involving the reclamation of the lands within this State by drainage, irrigation, and removal of trees and stumps, the building of levees, sea walls, necessary roads, land leveling, fertilization, sanitation, or involving such other means as may be found practicable and desirable to make the land suitable for agricultural purposes and rural homes. The board may acquire in the name of the State by purchase, gift, or the exercise of the power of eminent domain, all lands and other property needed for the purposes hereof, and may take title in trust. With the consent of the cooperating Federal agencies the board may sell any land or other property acquired hereunder found not to be required for any project. The board may also utilize all lands of the State for the purposes of this act: *Provided*, That nothing in this section contained shall be construed to repeal any law relating to the price of State lands; *Provided further*, That the periods during which payment for State lands may be made and the rates of interest under existing statutory law may be modified by the board, if deemed advisable in order properly to cooperate with Federal agencies.

SEC. 5. The board is authorized to contract with the United States pursuant to acts of Congress and the rules and regulations thereunder for soldier settlement and related purposes. For the purposes of general cooperation with the Federal government hereunder, the board may also contract with other States, and with municipal, quasi-municipal, and public corporations and private corporations and individuals.

SEC. 6. For the purposes of this act, the board may also, under contract with the United States, undertake any work of farm improvement, subdivision of the land, supervision of settlement, the selection of settlers, the agricultural training of prospective settlers, the supervision of short-term loans, the rejection of applicants for allotments, the collection of moneys, the operation and maintenance of the projects undertaken, and may perform such other acts as may be necessary to effectuate full cooperation with Federal agencies.

SEC. 7. The board may also lease or assent to the lease of any lands pending receipt of application for the purchase thereof, may dedicate lands for schools, churches, roads, cemeteries, and other public purposes, may establish, develop and open for sale such townsites as may be desirable and provided by contract with the United States. The proceeds of all operations under this act shall be covered into the——(*name of State*)—— Soldier Settlement Fund.

SEC. 8. The board, in cooperation with the United States, is authorized to obtain suitable security by lien, by cooperation with public corporations or otherwise for the reimbursement of moneys expended hereunder by the United States, or by the State or by both jointly, or otherwise. All moneys expended by the State upon any project undertaken shall be reimbursable to the State in manner similar and to the same extent that moneys disbursed by the United States for cooperation with the State shall be reimbursable, and with the same interest, if any, upon such plan of amortization or other method of reimbursement as may be agreed upon pursuant to such acts of Congress.

SEC. 9. State lands utilized hereunder and lands acquired pursuant to this act shall be subject to State and local taxation and assessment for improvement purposes from the date of the execution of the contract for the purchase thereof by settlers upon any project undertaken hereunder. If the contracting purchaser shall fail to pay such taxes and assessments, the same may be paid from the fund hereby provided and charged to the purchaser with interest at the rate of ten per cent per annum from the date of payment.

SEC. 10. The board shall make annual report to the governor with a full statement of its operations and the results of its investigations and experience resulting from operations under this act, together with recommendations for legislation, and shall furnish a copy of its report to the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 11. The board is hereby authorized to perform such acts and make such rules and regulations as it may deem necessary and proper to carry this act into full force and effect.

SEC. 12. (Usual emergency clause.)

WHAT OUR FIGHTING MEN THINK OF THE PLAN.

A perusal of the letters already filed in the Department of the Interior will convince the most cynical critic of the plan that land hunger is to-day as unsatisfied as it was after the Civil War; that hundreds of thousands of our virile American citizens will welcome the opportunity to continue working for Uncle Sam and help him build the necessary dams and canals, dig the drainage ditches, blow the stumps, erect houses and barns, and construct roads and lay out town sites.

Every letter is an animated question—"Where is this land?" "How soon can we begin work?" "Has Congress appropriated the money necessary for construction?" There are letters from France; letters from camps in the United States; letters from officers and letters from privates; letters from soldiers of former wars; letters from soldiers' wives, all breathing the spirit of the open air, and of the desire to be a part in this "Back to the land movement" which needs only the appropriation of the necessary funds to make it a reality.

Here are some of the letters taken at random.

Maj. Ralph E. Robson, France: To-night I took one company having 148 men in ranks and explained to them as best I could the idea of the Government, and terms and conditions under which the land could be obtained. Then I asked how many men would be interested and 38, or 25 per cent, said that they would be interested. I think that this particular company is representative of this regiment and division. If you cut this in two and said that 10 per cent would come through I think you would have about a correct figure. Personally, I feel that it is the most remarkable chance, and I am more or less interested myself.

Capt. D. W. Smith, Camp Humphreys, Va.: Every soldier I have talked with thinks the plan splendid; then at once begins to ask questions about as follows: "How much land; where located; must we live on the tract constantly or can we work at some trade part of the time; what are the physical advantages of each locality; where shall we get data; and when and how soon will we have a chance to take up this land." I have only talked with officers and soldiers in this camp and those I have met in Washington, and believe that most soldiers are intensely interested in the plan as they conceive it to be, and all want data. To sum up my conclusions about what soldiers think about the plan of your bureau, I will say that the greatest interest is in ascertaining when data of this plan will be available.

Lieut. Willis Kent, Camp Custer, Mich.: I am an officer in the Army, but I write this letter not as an officer but as a citizen of the United States and a family man who is about to be returned to civilian life. Now that all my old associations have been severed by 19 months of Army life, I can not bring myself to a point where I can even consider again entering the struggle and grind of city life to eke out a bare subsistence. I want to get out into the open and fight a man's fight with nature. I have discussed after-the-war problems with many soldiers, commissioned and enlisted, and find this desire for the outdoor life—this land hunger—quite prevalent, in fact almost universal among those who must work for a living.

Lieut. C. Olsen, U. S. N., Mt. Vernon, N. Y.: I am quite sure that this great move of Secretary Lane will be highly appreciated by the men in uniform.

Frederick P. Goodrich, N. F. C., Dorchester, Mass.: I am, like many others, very much interested in the reclamation plans which are under development. Through newspaper and magazine articles I have learned of the proposed arrangement of offering land for development to men returning from the service. I shall greatly appreciate your kindness in giving me at your earliest convenience all information which you can furnish.

Cadet Charles W. Dean, Ellington Field, Tex.: From what little information I could gather from hearsay and from magazine articles, I am deeply interested in the Government reclamation project.

Pvt. James K. Burch, Fort Barry, Cal.: May I inquire if any action has been taken by Congress relative to the appropriation for reclamation work incident to the employment of discharged soldiers? Since this project was broached by Secretary Lane I have made some inquiry and investigation among the soldiers encamped about the bay sections, and among men coming and going from the camps in the North and the South at the crossroads of the Pacific coast, at San Francisco, and find a large majority of them deeply interested in the proposition. A tabulation of these observations discloses that about 40 per cent of the men would willingly pass direct from the Army into this work with considerable more than an average certainty of acquiring a farm as the ultimate goal. The early discharge of the men, now taking place, will somewhat disturb this calculation, and, I fear, their determination so eagerly expressed before the war's end, will now be largely dependent on the employment they obtain, or more likely, the nonemployment they will be up against in civil life. A general survey of the situation out here at this time indicates to me that the early commencement of this work will be a godsend to many of the boys just out of the service.

Pvt. Lewis Boskey, Camp Upton, N. Y.: I was born and have lived all my life, 27 years, in New York City, but have never been fully satisfied and was never really happy unless I was doing constructive work out in the open. I will be released from the Army in two months and wish to locate on a farm, with my wife. I have no means of knowing where to go, except from advices given by fellow soldiers. I have done a lot of hard work in the Army and if I should go back to the city would have no ambition to work there at all. I want to be on a farm, and neither my wife or myself would have any ambition at all to live in the city.

Pvt. Jack McFetridge, France: Many of my comrades are interested in homesteads, due to the open-air life they have been living. As a committee of one, I have been appointed to inquire into what plans your department has made in regard to this, as the "clover kickers" in my company are all anxious to know. Any information to enlighten some of the boys of the A. E. F. would be appreciated.

Arthur H. Nelson, U. S. N., Great Lakes Training Station: I am especially interested in reclaimed cut-over lands, as to their location, how soon before I could get to work on a place, and what are the plans that will be offered. I am more than anxious to get a home started for my wife and myself, so kindly advise me as soon as possible what the Government has to offer for a poor man who is willing to work for what he gets.

Pvt. S. J. Aplin, Mansfield, Ohio: I am a discharged soldier, plumber by trade, and would like to be in on the work of reclaiming the land and securing a farm.

Walter P. Young, U. S. N. R. F., Georgetown, Tex.: I wish to obtain information concerning land grants. I understand special provisions are being made for men to be discharged from the service. I am at present awaiting a discharge from the Navy.

R. S. Clark, U. S. N., Great Lakes Training Station: After I am discharged from the Navy, if I am permitted to choose, I certainly will take a farm. I would gladly take up any proposition your department is working on, and I feel I am fitted to make a success of it most anywhere.

Mrs. Homer R. Holmes, Kansas City, Mo.: My husband is a soldier and we are very much interested in the matter of land which is to be opened to soldiers and sailors for homestead purposes. I would appreciate any information regarding how soon this matter will come up before Congress.

Pvt. John Yanulewiz, Coast Artillery, Ft. Constitution, Portsmouth, N. H.: I volunteered to the U. S. A. in May, 1918, and expect to be mustered out soon. I am 22 years of age; got a father, but he is getting too weak to work in the coal mines. I have three brothers and four sisters, and they are all younger than I. My parents and I are anxious to get a farm, but we can't because we haven't got the cash, therefore we write to you for help. My home State is Pennsylvania.

Sergt. U. Zuehlke, Camp Lewis, Wash.: Kindly advise me on the subject regarding the taking up of homestead land by men in the United States Army. The information that I mainly desire is the length of time a man must serve in the Army before he is qualified to apply for such land. It would also be appreciated if you could give me a list of some of the States in which such land is available and also the men in charge of the land so that I could communicate with them. Is there any such land in Wisconsin?

C. V. Allen, United States naval training station, San Diego, Cal.: I notice from press reports that the returning soldier is to have an opportunity to buy land, at cheap price, from the Government and that he is to receive financial and other help in improving the land and in establishing a home. Is there any such help to be given the sailors who have not been "over there"? If so from whom could I get information regarding the plan of helping. If the sailors are not included in this programme for helping the soldiers, what means is there whereby I could get help from the Government in the purchase and improvement of land for a home?

Leon B. Allen, first lieutenant, F. A. U. S. A., Fort Sill, Okla.: I understand that a considerable amount of Government land is to be made available for ex-soldiers. I expect my discharge from the service within a few days and would appreciate any definite information on this subject which is now available. Am interested particularly in land suitable for cattle and hogs.

Tandy J. Allen, Sergeant Q. M. C., Fort Andrews, Mass.: Would you please give me information about the farms the Government is going to give the soldiers? Will the land be given to any soldier that wants a farm; or just the soldiers who return from France? I was one of the unlucky ones that could not go over, but wanted to. I was kept here working in the Q. M. C. When my time is up to be discharged, I would like to get a farm. I will thank you for your trouble.

George B. Alley, Camp Jackson: As I am about to be discharged from the Army and having heard that land in different parts of the country is to be allotted to discharged soldiers, I would be very glad to have some further information on the subject. If possible, I would be interested in land in the western part of the country, California, Washington, or Colorado.

Harold E. Ammerman, Camp Lewis, Wash.: I am interested in the new Reclamation project under way here in the United States. I am a soldier, married, and a citizen of this country, but on account of physical defects, I was placed on limited service; therefore was unable to accompany the Ninty-first Division overseas. My physical condition is such that I am more suited for farming than for any other general labor.

Rufus P. Arboneaux, U. S. S. *Baltimore:* I am a sailor, blacksmith by trade; will have served eight years in the U. S. Navy January 24, 1919, then I am through as a sailor. I read in the Scientific American about the land proposal for the soldiers, when they return from over the seas, but in this same article you fail to state if a sailor has the same preference. I am interested in same and an exsugar-cane farmer previous to my enlistment January 24, 1911. My father is farming at present, has

been all his life, and resides at Camperdown Pla., Franklin, La., in St. Mary's Parish, and I am willing to return to its life (farming) again. So in case this reaches the right department please mail me full particulars and oblige.

Edgar A. Cary, jr., Lockport, Ill.: I am in the U. S. Navy and would like to receive information regarding sailors' and soldiers' land claims. I am especially interested to find out if there is land in Brevard County, Fla. Titusville is the county seat; and if so please send map of same; also please send me information regarding Dakota land.

Stanley Carter, U. S. N. R. F., Georgetown, Tex.: I would like to obtain some information in regard to the taking up of a Federal land grant. I understand there has been some special provision made for men who are to be discharged from the service. I am at present awaiting my discharge.

Pvt. Burley O. Burke, Denver, Colo.: As a returned soldier wounded in France and evacuated to United States Army General Hospital 21, for recovery would like to learn just what provision is being made to place soldiers on irrigated projects. I prefer Wyoming, Colorado, or Kansas. I am a native of Indiana, and my entire life has been spent on a farm in that State. I have very little capital and no dependents. As my release from this hospital is only a matter of a short time, will appreciate an early answer.

James W. Brown, Traphill, N. C.: I wish to take advantage of the new homestead proposition that the Government is going to offer to the soldiers, as I am a soldier and do not own a farm. I would like to own one. Any information as how I may secure same will be appreciated. I have farmed all of my life.

Wyman A. Bristol, second lieutenant, Camp Custer, Mich.: Please send information regarding the issuing of homesteads to soldiers on leaving the service and if possible give the States and approximate location of where these lands are. There are a number of young men in this regiment who are intertested in putting in a claim for a plot of land and desire further information.

Fred Bayer, U. S. N. A. S., Moorehead City, N. C.: I am now a "gob" stationed at the United States naval air station, Moorehead City, N. C. I was born and raised on a farm in Kansas, and was emergency demonstration agent, doing agricultural demonstration work in Shawnee County, Kans., at the time of enlistment last March. Being very much interested in your fine idea of giving the returning soldier and sailor an opportunity to return to a farm, I take this opportunity of congratulating you, and asking you to send me your plans for doing this. I have become especially interested in the agricultural possibilities of the South—yet undeveloped. Will you please send me any literature, maps, etc., available, describing the land openings of the Southern States, especially North Carolina? I have heard much about the drained land in Hdye County, N. C.

I expect to soon be released from active service, and would prefer doing research work in the South. Could you advise me as to the openings through the State department of agriculture or the Department of the Interior?

I expect a great period of development and progress in agriculture in the immediate future. I am sure many men now in uniform will return to farms.

Mrs. H. M. Bourland, Seattle, Wash.: My husband is in service with the American forces in France, and has been for about a year. In his letters home he has often discussed the "after-the-war" situation, and has asked me to look into various farming propositions—in Canada and in this country—seeming to realize that at best it will be no easy matter for the young men with families to come back and pick up broken threads of business.

He spoke considerably of taking up farm life on his return, and asked me to learn such things as I could about the sections offered by the Canadian Government in Saskatchewan, etc.

I noticed in paper articles that the United States Government is now or has formulated some idea of allotting land to returned soldiers, and I would appreciate it if you would either give me the information that I may send to my husband, or if you prefer, you can send him such information and data, direct.

Pvt. William E. Beier, Washington, D. C.: Sometime ago I saw in the paper that the Government is going to offer to each soldier returning from Europe a tract of farm land giving him 40 years to pay, and so on. Now, I never went across, but was transferred to the Washington police force. Will I have the right to put in such a claim for such farm land?

Chester T. Barry, Jersey City, N. J.: Having recently received my honorable discharge from the U. S. Army I feel I should like to continue my work outdoors. I understand from different accounts in the newspaper (New York and vicinity) that land will be given to the returned soldier to cultivate.

Would I be asking too much to ask you to give me some further information in regard to this matter, and what steps must I take to get a small bit of land? I understand also after a soldier has worked said land for a few years he becomes the owner of same.

Eugene J. Ballard, Hope Mills, N. C.: I am interested in the new homesteading proposition the Government is going to offer the ex-soldiers of the United States Army, and would like to get information as how to secure one of these homes.

Pvt. Mike Barbain, Camp Dix, N. J.: I have read in papers of a system whereby a soldier or sailor may take up land improved by the Government. Can this be done in all States having Government land? Does this system affect the homestead laws as they now are? Is the amount of land the same in all cases? Can a man have choice of location? Is it possible to get a larger amount of grazing land than for general farming? I am an enlisted man and have been in

Army over one year, and don't know just when I will be discharged. Will you please send all information about this system that you now have? I have had experience on farms and ranches in Texas and would like any special information about land in Arizona or Montana.

Thomas A. Bainbridge, New York City: Will you please advise through your department what has been done in connection with the giving of "Farm grants" to discharged soldiers. I have always been interested in the matter of farms, although working in an office, and have wanted to own and work one, but on account of money required, have been unable to satisfy my desire, so will appreciate any information relative to this subject, such as to procuring and financing the farm and securing the necessary moneys to get implements and stock the same, and to carry on over the first two years of the experimental stage.

H. S. Bannister, Detroit, Mich., and M. L. Hauser, Detroit, Mich.: We have been informed through our daily papers that a large portion of Kentucky soil is to be portioned out as grants for soldiers of the A. E. F. Being partners in civilian life, and also during our Army service, we wish to remain as such. It is our desire to obtain two connecting tracts of the Kentucky grants.

Pvt. Louis H. Koppelman, Camp Beauregard, La.: I would like some information on the lands the Government intends to homestead to soldiers if you have any. I am in the Signal Field Battalion. I am registered at Buncombe County, N. C. Several of the boys in the battalion are interested and would be very thankful for any news you can give me about them.

Charles Wm. Kilian, Bronx, N. Y.: I, the undersigned, am at present stationed at Pelham naval camp and will be released shortly, as my request for release is under way. Now, my occupation is laid low as the Government took all platinum for war use, my occupation being manufacturing jeweler and diamond dealer. Have you any offer you can make to me regarding farm lands? I am married and have one child, and I feel as though farming would appeal to me. I am 6 feet 3 inches in height, weighing 189 pounds, so I don't think hard work would affect me after being in the service since November 27, 1917.

Sergt. John M. Marcy, United States Army Debarkation Hospital 52, Richmond College, Va.: I should say there are 75 per cent of the boys who want to go back to the farm. Am very sorry to hear that Congress is so slow about making an appropriation for the projects. If they wait too long many will "fall by the wayside" in civilian life.

Thanking you again for your information, and hoping the men in Congress will get busy.

Pvt. George Katz, O.T.C., Camp Hancock, Ga.: Could you please advise me how the Government is going to take care of a fellow like myself, that has a very little experience in farming and has no capital to start with, but am willing and able to work even a few years so as to get a footstep for a farm proposition which would be a sound basis for advancement by good work and energy—by that I mean something that will give a fellow a start and help him along until he can take care of himself. Do you think it is advisable to figure on such proposition, or it is just a momentary thought of action which will never come true?

Roy Johnson, Camp Lewis, Wash.: I see by the papers you are going to reclaim the swamp and stump land of northern Minnesota and Wisconsin. Would there be any chance of getting a farm out there? My wife and I would like to go up there and start farming and stock raising. I have complete outfit of farming machinery and some stock. My wife is looking after them for me till I get home from the Army. My wife and I would like to have a home of our own if there is any chance, and I would like to go and help clear the land for homes if there is any chance of getting farm under the reclamation act. I would like to have chance. Please let me know.

Glen M. Johnson, Cairo, Ill.: I wish to make application for one of the Government farms for returned soldiers. My previous occupation was that of a miller in flour mills, but I now desire to take up farming, as the dust of the mills is hard on my lungs. I was honorably discharged from the United States Army, December 10, 1918. I desire to take up general farming. I await your response.

Dick Isaacs, U. S. S. *Maine:* I am very desirous of a few acres of this land and would like any information I can get as to when and how I may get it. I am a regular serving on the U. S. S. *Maine.* I have two more years to do, but as I have my own little future to look forward to, it is my earnest desire to do so.

Capt. William O. Hutchinson, Chattanooga, Tenn.: I am writing to see if you can give me any information as to whether there is going to be land for soldiers to take up, especially in the State of Florida. If so, please give me any information that you can. Will officers be able to get this land under the same conditions as enlisted men?

Sergt. Riley Hull, Hannibal, Mo.: I thought I would write you a few lines in regard to the information Capt. Lifcoe gave me. He said I could get a claim, and if you have anything worth while I am one who isn't afraid of work, and looking for good opportunity. I am now in Camp McArthur soldiering, but we are all going to be mustered out Saturday, the 7th. I am going straight home from camp, I would have waited to write till I got home, but it sounded good to me when the captain told me about it; and I wish you would give me all information about it and what you can do for me.

William Tracy Homan, Brooklyn, N. Y.: I am writing to request information concerning land grants to men in service. I am interested particularly in Montana and North Dakota claims. I have been in those two States and hope to return to that section of the country after being released from the service.

Waldo E. Hirsch, Ft. Crockett, Tex.: As I am about to be discharged from the service, I desire some information concerning opportunities for ex-soldiers to obtain farming land either by purchase or under homestead laws.

Howard Samuel Hines, U. S. S. *Allen*: I am an enlisted man in the Navy serving on board the U. S. S. *Allen* and would like to know if there is going to be any territory opened up for the purpose of homesteading.

Pvt. P. Herbert, Newark, N. J.: I am very much impressed and interested and if any definite plan is formed I would be glad to hear it, and I am quite sure hundreds of other of our boys would be.

Lieut. Franklin A. Harwood, Washington, D. C.: I believe that you, the United States Government, the people of the United States, want to do something practical to help the returning soldiers get placed "back on the land" if they so wish. I know a number of "my boys" expressed such a desire. Or take my own case. Although wounded three times, I am still able to do hard work. A graduate of University of Virginia, with several years experience in advertising field, Crowell Publishing Co., etc., I wouldn't have much trouble getting my old job back with New York Times or some other good position. Yet the out door life "over there" with the First Division would make me dissatisfied with almost any kind of office work. I believe that will be the experience of many of our soldiers. Not satisfied to go back to the bank, etc. They won't have much capital to start with, except a capacity for hard work.

O. B. Hamon, Chattanooga, Tenn.: I am not able to buy a place and would like to homestead. I understand that you have land in Texas and California.

J. Ralph Hamilton, Morrison, Va.: There are a number of boys here that are interested in this reclamation project. We were farmers before we enlisted and intend to return to the farm, but a number want a home of their own after this emergency is over, and this looks like an opportunity for many a soldier that has no home in view.

Corpl. Irving Greenburg, Camp Lee, Va.: I am a young man, 27 years old, a student when drafted, and gladly answered my country's call, I am physically fit to perform any kind of manual labor. I am single at present, but have a nice little girl who is willing to go with me any place where there might be some future before us—yes, I can even vouch for her that she will stick with me for the "second year," yea, even the third and fourth! If soldiers who served in the United States are not excluded, please let me know further on your plans, so that I can take into consideration the generous offer of the U. S. A. in my future plans.

Herbert Green, Mount Pleasant, S. C.: I have lived in big cities most of my life and it has been a very strong desire with me in years past that I should enter farm life. I never could accomplish this on account of home conditions, but since I joined the Navy I find that I am entirely free from the old ties, and if at the time I am released from this service I could go to a piece of land that I could call my own, I feel that a great step toward my ambition would be accomplished. Several other boys are also interested and we would like to take a claim in either North Dakota or Montana and we would be very thankful if you would send us complete information regarding farming in these States.

Sergt. R. E. Graham, American Expeditionary Forces, France: I would like to make an application for any program or printed matter you have on same. Am a man with a family and am in the hospital now, recovering from wounds received at the front, to which I expect to return shortly.

Benj. F. Gordon, American Expeditionary Forces, France: I would be pleased to share a portion of the distribution when I return to America after the war. I feel confident that with my previous experience in agriculture I am able to assist in developing the land of that State (Colorado).

Sergt. John Giles, American Expeditionary Forces, France: I am anxious to make my home in either Colorado or Arizona. I am a married man and of steady habits, and I have been in the service of the United States Army for 20 years, with character excellent. I also understand farming thoroughly and would pay the best of attention to any claim that would fall to my share.

Walter M. Gilbert, Newport News, Va.: A ranch in the West, where I was born, has always been the height of my ambition—not a fleeting fancy.

Sergt. Russell C. Fulton, Trenton, N. J.: I am a soldier and expect to be mustered out the service in a month or so. I was born on a farm, raised and lived on a farm all my life. I left a truck farm when I enlisted a year ago last July. I want to go back to farming, but I have not enough money saved to buy a farm outright, but would like to own a farm of my own.

Lieut. Herbert C. Foster, Memphis, Tenn.: I am at present an officer serving with troops but am very much impressed with the farm idea. I have sent in my resignation and expect to be out in the near future and am very desirous of going on the farm.

Pvt. Asa L. Ellis, Oneonta, Ala.: I am a soldier in the United States Army, but will soon be back home. I have always been a farmer, but I have no land of my own. One of the Y. M. C. A. men advised me to write you for information about the land proposition the Government was going to make to the soldier boys.

Thomas J. Devery, U. S. S. *Struven*: Am writing you to find out your plans to provide homesteads for returning soldiers and sailors. Am an enlisted man in the United States Naval Reserve Force on active duty and would appreciate full particulars. I resided in Pennsylvania before the war, but am willing to go West if necessary to secure land.

Lieut. O. J. Deinzer, American Expeditionary Forces: Through the Paris edition of the New York Herald, I am informed that your department has plans under way to sell land to soldiers returning from France. As I contemplate venturing into fruit farming after I return to the States, I would of course be very thankful to you for supplying me with any information concerning the above.

Louis Cuner, U. S. S. *Supply:* As I am about to be discharged from active service in the United States Naval Reserve Force, I am very anxious to again take up my former occupation—i. e., agriculture. I am very much interested in what some of my western shipmates have told me of territory in Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, etc., available for homesteads. Please send me full information by return mail, particularly how much capital one will need to start in right, or by excellent managing to be successful.

Pvt. Isaac Covino, American Expeditionary Forces: I am a wounded soldier (gassed) of the Three hundred and tenth Infantry Regiment, Second Battalion, Interior Section. I have read in one of the papers of the help your department gives to those soldiers who wish to acquire a farm. If this is true, please help me to obtain a farm in Florida.

Alfred J. Conroy, Cranston, R. I.: I am getting discharged from the Army to-morrow and would like to have a little information on a free homestead for discharged soldiers.

D. W. Compton, Chicago, Ill.: I wish to avail myself of the opportunity to secure land under the Interior Department's plan for assisting soldiers to develop unimproved lands in the United States, as soon as those plans are definitely formulated. I have been reared on a farm and have received agricultural-college training, but lacked the capital to attempt to own a home in the improved agricultural sections of the country. Therefore, I am very much interested in this proposed plan and would appreciate the favor if my name could be placed on file to receive any information in regard to openings of land and how to apply for land and the costs of the land and methods of payment.

Lieut. T. Lawrence Coe, Eberts Field, Lonoke, Ark.: I have just finished reading your article on "Farms for returned soldiers," in the Scientific American, and I was greatly interested in it because such has been my idea for quite a while, and when demobilization takes effect, I, like a number of others, will not be able to go back to my former occupation, that of a student at college, nor will I be able, because of lack of capital, to carry out my former ideas and desires. I must, therefore, look for something whereby I can make a living and provide for the future. The farm appeals to me because of the outdoor life and the freedom and also because I have had some experience along those lines.

Living in the Army and among thousands of soldiers for the past 20 months, it has been my opportunity to talk to hundreds of them concerning their future after the war, and many, I might add that the largest per cent, speak of "going back to the farm," and it seems to me as if the rugged outdoor life which they have led the past year has developed their ideas along these lines and has made them feel that they could no longer be satisfied with their former occupations, such as clerks and various other indoor positions, jobs, or employment, and the farm opens up to them a new big field, with unlimited possibilities and independence and outdoors.

Gustave C. Lindquist, Denver, Colo.: I have been discharged on account of tuberculosis and it is imperative that I get real outside employment as soon as possible before my condition becomes worse. I am a machinist by trade but not by inclination and have always wanted to farm and am not afraid of work.

Richard M. Lerner, Los Angeles, Cal.: I have just received my discharge from the Army and would like to know if it is possible for me to get some land in one of these projects. I was engaged in farming before the war and would like to start out for myself if it is possible.

Elmer L. Lenox, Reedstown, Wis.: Before entering the Army I was a farmer and hope to continue so in future, but wish to settle on a place of my own.

Verge W. Lemmon, San Francisco, Cal.: Being personally interested to secure in proper manner a homestead, would feel very grateful to you for whatever you can tell me.

Pvt. Leo. L. Lavori, Fort Sill, Okla.: Take my own case; as soon as I could make arrangements concerning my wife and baby I immediately volunteered for service. And now there is strong possibilities of my being discharged at the beginning of winter with no home and no position and slim chances of getting one, with so many being discharged at once. I've wanted a farm as long as I've ever wanted anything (except the privilege of going across), but there was always that little item of capital lacking.

H. Lancaster, Storm Lake, Iowa.: Have just been discharged from the United States Army and in the making of my plans for beginning again I would be grateful if you would furnish me with any information you could give me regarding any land that is, or will be, available in the near future for returned soldiers.

Corpl. Jack LaSelle, Camp Meade, Md.: I am a soldier without means and am desirous of taking advantage of our Government's offer to help ex-soldiers get started on Government farm lands. Please tell me how to go about it, if in your department. If not in your department, would appreciate much if you could advise me when, and of whom, I can get this information.

Lieut. Harris C. McCord, Rockville, Ind.: Since my small part in this war was all fought in the camps of this country, I can not claim any aid from the Government, but I did quit farming last summer and enlist. Now I am at present without a farm to go back to. I expect to go to farming, however, in the spring. If possible I should like to locate in the South. I consider myself an expert farmer but only as a grain grower and stock raiser of Indiana.

J. Gillis McCrory, Neighbours, Cal.: I am an honorably discharged soldier and wish very much to farm some land here in the West under the irrigation plan.

Lieut. Harry P. Meekes, Brooklyn, N. Y.: As I am about to be discharged from the service I would like to know the terms, conditions, locations, and all the other information which you can send me.

Sergt. O. C. McLean, Rock Island Arsenal, Ill.: I am a farmer, but have never been able to get a start toward ownership, and will be obliged for any advice or help which can be offered.

Miles A. Munsell, Constantia, N. Y.: I was discharged in 1917 for disability in line of duty and was

called back in the service September 17, 1918, and now I expect to be discharged soon. I was born and raised on a farm and understand farming thoroughly.

Lieut. Carey P. Moore, Indianapolis, Ind.: In a little less than a month I expect to be discharged from the Army. Like thousands of others I have no job or vocation to which to return, and unfortunate circumstances prevent me from completing a course in medicine which I had just begun prior to May 9, 1917, when I enlisted in the first officers' training camp in Indiana.

Charles Mitsky, Jersey City, N. J.: I have just been discharged from the United States Navy with a medical discharge and I am anxious to follow farming.

Isaac N. Millsap, Camp Meade, Md.: I am anxious to get a piece of land and go to work for myself instead of working for wages. I am a carpenter by trade, but I have farmed with my father a few years and I like the life.

Charles C. Milliken, Verona, Pa.: I was disabled by a severe attack of sickness which I contracted while in camp at Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., and have been advised by the doctors to live in the open as much as possible. I thoroughly understand farming and stock raising, having studied veterinary and lived for some time on a farm. I am a married man with one child.

Lieut. William G. Milligan, Camp Wadsworth, S. C.: Expecting my discharge from the Army I want to go to farming and desire to get all information you have pertaining to all Government lands available and suitable for general or stock farming. My capital is small, and I understand that provision is being made whereby discharged soldiers may benefit by Government aid for long-term payments, etc. My work on farms has been as herdsman with hogs, cows, and some general outside work.

Lieut. Emile A. Meyer, Mount Sterling, Ill.: I am a man 23 years of age, and married, but have no children. I have received a permanent disability in the service of my country, having served 19 months in the aviation section of the Army; however, I think this disability will in no way impair my health to the extent that I would be unable to do this farm work.

Quincy A. Main, Hempstead, Long Island, N. Y.: Am expecting to be discharged in the near future. My chief occupation is farming and have taken my master's degree at O. S. U. in agricultural subjects, specializing in rural economics. My old home is in central Ohio, Delaware County, and I have spent my whole life on the farm. Of course coming out of the Army my wife and I have not much money. Is there any provision made whereby I could obtain State or Federal aid in starting in in a new country?

Pvt. George Marino, Bronx, N. Y.: I would like to get a more precise knowledge of how this land is going to be given and the full details of what concessions are being given to the soldier, who has nothing but his ambition behind him to rely upon. I am a young Italian lad of 25 years, and have a wife and child, and the most important part is I have not a penny behind me, only what I expect to receive from the Government at the end of the month, which is only $8.40. My wife is also being assisted at the present time by the Red Cross, so you see my financial conditions are very poor.

Millard B. Marsh, Hempstead, Long Island: I was formerly a farmer and exceedingly anxious to get back to agriculture again.

Pvt. George E. Mayall, Fort Strong, Mass.: The question of relocating after this world issue is big, and it is especially gratifying to know that some means is to be made to help the soldier or sailor in settling after the war.

L. N. Steele, West Springfield, Mass.: I have been greatly interested in farm work, although I never had a good opportunity to take it up, and am looking forward to settling on some place as soon as possible.

James E. Smith, Louisville, Ky.: I was discharged by reason slight disability. I have been employed at the quartermaster's depot, Jeffersonville, Ind., as assistant timekeeper. I work in the conservation and reclamation division. I was raised in the Mississippi Delta, and I am familiar with a cotton farm and stock raising. I would be glad to have one of your farms. I would also be glad to accept a position similar to the one I now have with the reclamation corps which will clean up so much waste land.

Roger Sherman, Springfield, Mass.: I was formally a student at the Connecticut Agricultural College. I am married and have been engaged in practical farm work with my brother-in-law. I intend to go in the game for myself.

F. A. Settle, Newark, N. J.: I having just been discharged, and I am anxious to get started.

William S. Schmidt, Mishawaka, Ind.: The little Army life that I have seen has improved my health and appearance. I long for the free-outdoor life and vigorous exercise. I have no capital, no previous experience. very little knowledge of farming, but am very willing and anxious to take part in this.

Jos. L. Rosenthal, New York City: I am now a noncommissioned officer in the machine-gun branch of the service, and after serving 14 months with the United States Army, I have learned that I will be discharged within the next few days. At present I am centless, and wish to know all information regarding a homestead to start it without a cent.

Charles A. Rexroad, Kincaid, Ill.: Is there any place where a married man can get with the Government where the man can work on farm and live on Government land or take up a claim?

Harry Reiser, American Expeditionary Forces: I am an old soldier, having been in the Army for 14 years, having served in Philippine Islands, China, Mexico, and now in the world war. Have $800 cash, but upon return to the United States, the reduced pay wont keep my family.

Lieut. James N. Poche, Camp Sherman, Ohio: It is my desire to farm after I am discharged from the service as I have the land promised me, but I have not the necessary funds.

C. R. Parker, Oakland, Cal.: I am a chief electrician in the Naval Reserve, in active service since the day that a state of war was declared to exist be-

tween the United States and Germany. It has been my plans for sometime to obtain some of the good Government land that was still to be had before the war started. Since I have been tied up in the Navy, some of the southern Oregon land and some land in California has been opened and I have been unable to take advantage of it. Now, that this new movement is on foot, as stated in the papers, I am overly anxious to know about it. Is this only newspaper talk or is there any truth in the reports?

H. J. New, Hampton Roads, Va.: I have been in the service of the Navy for nine months and expect to be discharged soon. I have no position to go back to, as I was in college when I enlisted.

Lieut. Roger L. Neill, Philadelphia, Pa.: I am desirous of locating in the West, either Colorado, New Mexico, or Arizona, being familiar with conditions in all three States. My home is in Albuquerque, N. Mex. Have had some experience in irrigation, timber, and ranching. I have been in the Army three years. I want to take up something that will be permanent and provide for the future.

Oliver W. Wiese, Chicago, Ill.: I have been working for seven years on farms and would like very much to be given a chance as soon as possible, as I had to give up a home when I came in the Army.

Capt. Clyde W. White, Lakehurst, N. J.: I have been in the service during the entire period of the war. It is possible that I may remain in the Army permanently. However, the present uncertainty among Army officers as to the inducements that the military service may have to offer them for remaining in the service will make it necessary for many of us to plan for a return to a civil occupation. With respect to my own case: I was raised on the farm; was graduated from a State university and spent two years as instructor in physics in an engineering school before entering the military service. The prospect of returning to indoor occupation does not appeal to me after the outdoor experience of the past few years.

Harry D. White, American Expeditionary Forces: Being in the service and now that peace and return to the States seems definitely assured for the near future, I am of course interested in my own progress after I leave the service.

Harry C. West, Boston, Mass.: I have spent a good bit of time on a farm in Iowa, and am anxious to get some workable land of my own.

W. R. Wedrick, Zion City, Ill.: Now that the war is over I realize that Uncle Sam will not have work for all of us sooner or later. So in anticipation of that time when I will be mustered out I must plan on estabishing a home for my wife.

John L. Wann, Tangier, Ind.: Since my service in the United States Navy will soon come to an end I turn to plans for future occupation. Have had two years' study of agriculture at Purdue University. After I finish my education I will not have a farm to return to in order to follow out my plans.

Pvt. Erwin L. Walters, American Expeditionary Forces, France: Will return to the good old United States soon, I hope. It has been my whole heart's desire to get hold of a homestead or piece of land some place where I can settle down the remainder of my life. I am capable of handling a ranch or farm and love the desert life. I would like the best in the world to get hold of some of this reclaimed land that I have read so much about.

H. R. Walker, Hill City, Minn.: I am interested very much and desire more information on the matter. When I entered the Army I disposed of what start I had made on a farm in northern Minnesota, and want to go back to farming again, but have no funds in sufficient amount to start.

Edward S. Tuthill, Las Animas, Colo.: I am at present a patient with tuberculosis in the United States naval hospital at Fort Lyon, Colo., and as a health measure, I have decided to remain in this part of the country and if possible would like to go on a farm.

Lieut. Ide P. Trotter, Camp Travis, Tex.: From childhood my course has been planned with a view to in some way making my life help toward the uplift of agriculture.

Sergt. John M. Marcy, Richmond, Va.: I merely wish to have you know that my highest ambition is to own a farm on reclaimed land in Colorado or Arizona. I have had no experience in farming, am a first class mechanic (plumber and water system) and have a wife and two children. Wife is working at telephone operating trying to make "both ends meet" while I am in the Army. Also that I have no money to buy a farm or ranch but have determination and am physically fit. If the Government is really doing anything toward helping us get hold of a piece of land I would consider it a great favor if you would advise me in regard to same.

Raymond F. Taylor, Bloomfield, N. J.: I am a recently discharged soldier just back from overseas. I want to farm, and the sooner I can start the better I will like it. Before enlisting I was preparing to enter college in a general way, but after almost two years in the Army I am convinced that nothing but an outdoor occupation will satisfy me.

Pvt. Charles B. Tremor, Camp Logan, Tex.: I am a married man, and it seems to me a big opportunity for a fellow wanting to farm. I have worked on a farm almost all my life.

Lieut. S. K. Day, Brittin, N. Dak.: I would sure like to take advantage of any such help the Government undertakes. I was raised on a farm, and would welcome a chance to get a chance to go back to the farm, but haven't the means to undertake such a move without help and since being discharged from the Army I find a good position hard to get, that is where you can support a family with the present high cost of living.

Ray E. Todd, Bowen Ill.: As a recently discharged soldier, I am writing to the Interior Department concerning grants of land to be made to discharged soldiers and sailors. I am anxious to farm if I could get a claim this way somewhere in the West. I have been on a farm the greater part of my life, and am familiar with farming as it is done here in the Middle West, so I know what I would be getting into

in case you are granting land for reclamation and cultivation in the West.

Pvt. Alfred C. Theurer, Fort Sam Houston, Tex.: I am interested in general farming, and would like to locate in Maryland or Virginia. I will have been in the service five years December 23 next, have since married, consequently desire to have a place of my own.

Sergt. William Swanson, Camp Holabird, Baltimore, Md.: I was on my way to take up homesteading before entering the service, but upon seeing that this country would also be mixed up in the war, I instead joined the ranks and forgot all about homesteading. But I've seen in the papers lately that land is going to be let out to soldiers with an honorable discharge from the service. I've done my bit and expect to be out of the service in a very short time, so I've got to start looking out for my future.

Joe F. Stout, Temple, Tex.: I was a cadet (flyer) at Rich field, Waco, Tex., and was honorably discharged December 7, but now that I am in civilian life and as a married man I wish first-hand information regarding soldier farm homes. The one plan of the soldiers to receive wages while clearing said land and with the possibility of purchasing land, meets my best approval, owing to having parted with a well-paying position when I entered the service.

Samuel B. Rifkin, Philadelphia, Pa.: I have been in the Regular Army and I was in the selected army. I would like to take up land in the vicinity of Eugene or Portland, Oreg.

Sergt. Alfred Boiz, Camp MacArthur, Waco, Tex.: Having read an article in a newspaper concerning the sale of good farming land to soldiers on easy payments, we would like to settle in the Middle West.

E. A. W. Russell, Brooklyn, N. Y.: I am 25 years of age, a born citizen, married and one child. I have little or no capital, so if a large amount of money is necessary it will be impossible for me to avail myself of this opportunity. I have been on active service throughout the entire war.

Lieut. Fred R. Procise, Champaign, Ill.: I am interested in a small tract of land in any good stock-growing section of the country where hogs, poultry, etc., could be raised. I have been in the service 19 months and will be discharged during the first week of January. I am a graduate of the Agricultural School of the University of Illinois.

W. W. Talbot, Key West, Fla.: In a few months I expect to be mustered out of the service and have decided to take up farming and live-stock raising instead of returning to my former occupation.

Geo. W. Green, Wichita Falls, Tex.: I will soon finish my flying training, be discharged from the Army, and return to civil life. I want to get as definite information as possible about this land for I want to decide if possible, before leaving the Army if this land is preferable from a financial point of view.

George Ganley, Winchester, Mass.: I have been waiting for such a chance for quite a while. I didn't see service in France because they threw me down on a disability, but I saw service on the Mexican border in 1916 with Company G, Fifth Massachusetts Infantry, so if there is a chance for a homestead with about 50 acres I will be very glad to get it. I was brought up on a farm, so I won't have to be broke in. I am married and have one child. If I get a farm I won't care what part of the country it is in.

John H. Miller, U. S. S. *Nevada*: I am particularly desirous to learn if there are any grants to be given in the State of Louisiana. I would like to start a farm there and if I could obtain the land from the Government it would give me a very much needed start.

Pvt. Joseph M. Regan, American Expeditionary Forces: Will you help me out of my tangle? One of the first over here in France (I enlisted when President Wilson called for volunteers) and almost all of that time roughing it (even though I'm about 40) with the best of them and feel like settling down on a farm when I return.

Lieut. Miles Fergus, San Francisco, Cal.: I have very limited capital to work on, but have had about 20 years' experience on the farm and thoroughly understand farming in all its principles. I understand that the Government has in view a scheme whereby they are to assist all discharged men to return to the farm with the aid of the Government financially in building it up. I also have a son, who is at the Murphy Sanatorium, at Albuquerque, N. Mex., at Government expense, discharged January 12, 1918, at Fort Bayard, N. Mex., total disability, in line of duty. My idea of writing for this information is the thought that with the Government's help I could go on the farm again and relieve them of the care of keeping my son, and at the same time place myself in a position so I would not need aid in case my disability should develop to such an extent that I would not be able to work.

Victor A. Bogrett, Somerville, Mass.: I, of course, wish to own a farm of my own and not put in my time working for someone else. My home is in the southern part of New Hampshire, where there are a large number of deserted farms which could be bought very reasonable, and made to pay if any one had a small amount of money.

Leigh Danenberg, New York City: Acting under instructions from Washington we are publishing a paper at this hospital which is reaching the returning wounded passing through the port of New York. We are anxious to receive from you for use in our columns all the latest, livest news on the farms-for-soldiers movement. Our aim is to convince the sick and the wounded soldier, soon as he reaches these shores, that his usefulness is not ended, that the Government stands ready to reeducate and retrain him to the very limit of its resources, and that the day of the begging street-corner veteran is gone forever. The Department of the Interior, we know, is bending every energy in work along these same lines, and therefore it is our sincere desire that in the near future we may be able to enter into close cooperation with you to furnishing our soldier-patient readers, the newsiest news and information on the subject of farm lands.

WHAT OTHER NATIONS ARE DOING.

The following outline of the plans of other nations for their returning soldiers indicates that much thought and work has been given in these countries toward the solution of this problem. Of course, it is realized that these policies are made to fit the conditions and conduct of each particular part, whether it be Nation or State. It is not meant to imply that we can model our plans or policies along those lines. But it is believed that this knowledge points out one lesson that has much good in it. That is this, that the preparation of plans for providing opportunity for our returning soldiers can not be left to the day when the war is over.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Legislation has been enacted by Parliament (6 and 7 Geo. V, c. 38) enabling the board of agriculture and fisheries to acquire land for a small number of experimental holdings for returning men in England and Wales. The measure provides for small farms not exceeding 50 acres, to be of three different types—mixed farming, dairying, and market gardening. Men without previous farming experience are to be given preliminary training on a demonstration farm, under the supervision of a director, receiving a fair living wage. When they are considered capable of taking up a holding for themselves it will be allotted. Under this small-holding scheme it is understood that land has been acquired in Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. The board is likewise working out a large program, to be later recommended to the ministry. In Scotland the board of agriculture under the act above mentioned has also taken up land.

CANADA.

With reference to the Dominion lands, the reserved areas (known as Crown lands) are placed in the hands of a settlement board, which consists of three members. A free grant of 160 acres is made to the returning soldier, and the board is empowered to grant a loan of not exceeding $2,500 to each man to be spent in erecting a house, purchasing implements and stock, and generally in preparing the land. This loan will be a first mortgage on the homestead. It will be advanced at a low rate of interest (5 per cent), and will have to be repaid in 20 years. Applicants for lands or loans must have had previous farming experience. Intending settlers among returning soldiers without previous farming experience can go upon demonstration farms for training. If they elect, however, they may go upon farms of selected and approved farmers for a definite time. In either case employment at current wages will be paid. "The classes entitled to participate," says the report of Lord Tennyson's committee, "include honorably discharged ex-service men from the forces of Canada, the United Kingdom, and any of the self-governing British dominions, and to the widows of soldiers and sailors from other parts of the Empire whose husbands died while on active service."

ONTARIO.

Under the act No. 150, passed in 1916, the Government grants free to ex-service men 100 acres of land. Loans of $500, bearing interest at 6 per cent and repayable within 20 years, can be secured from the provincial government. Training is provided for men with no agricultural experience. A training depot has been established at Monteith which provides living accommodations and board during instruction. A reasonable wage, under the act, is to be paid. When a sufficient number of men are trained, a settlement is to be established. Provisions will be made for married men to have their families with them as soon as practicable.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The British Columbian act (6 Geo. V, No. 59) passed in 1916, provides for the settlement of ex-service men, including the widows of men who would have come under the act. The lands are to be granted free. In addition ex-service men can obtain on payment of about $10 a preemption claim to land, the area and residence requirements to be fixed by regulation, which is to be free of all taxes except for educational purposes. The act likewise provides that a fund shall be established from the sale of Crown lands. This fund is to be used for loans to returned soldiers, and will be administered by the agricultural credit commission of British Columbia.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

An act was passed in 1916 (6 Geo. V, No. 9) authorizing the provincial government to develop a scheme for the settlement of men who have served in the present war. The work is to be done by the farm-settlement board, and an area of 20,000 acres has already been set aside for beginning settlements. Settlements are to accommodate from 100 to 250 families, and a demonstration farm is to be established to provide implements and information. The farms will be from 10 to 100 acres and the cost will vary. Those on Crown lands will be governed by the actual cost of improvements, the payment of which will be on moderate terms, spread over 20 years. Ex-service men can obtain employment in preparing the holdings until they desire to take up a farm.

AUSTRALIA.

The Commonwealth of Australia held a conference of the Federal and State authorities in 1917. A board was appointed, which was to include a minister from each State, and the Commonwealth authorized an appropriation of $100,000,000 for the work. The board is now working on plans for advancing money to soldier settlers, with rates of interest, method of repayment, and policy yet unannounced. The various States of the Commonwealth have taken the following steps for preparing land for returning service men:

NEW SOUTH WALES.

In 1916, under the returned soldiers' settlement act (No. 21), areas of Crown land and resumed private lands have been set aside for the settlement of returned Australian soldiers. The State government will extend these advantages to soldiers of the Empire, and has already undertaken the preparation of 1,000 farms in the Yanco irrigation area. The average farm is to be 50 acres, with a perpetual lease,

and the rent 2½ per cent of the capital value, besides water rent. Advances will be made by the Government for the purpose of (1) paying off debts due the Crown, and (2) for paying off encumbrances on the land, and (3) for building houses and making other improvements. During the initial stages before the land has become productive the Government may suspend payment. The proposed suspension applies to payments due (*a*) for rent, (*b*) water charges, (*c*) improvements, and (*d*) installments of purchase money. The Government Savings Bank of New South Wales will advance an amount up to three-quarters of the holder's interest in improvements. The legislation also provides for a previous six months' agricultural experience for the returning soldier. Otherwise, if he elects, he can go to the Government farm for the necessary training.

VICTORIA.

Legislation indicating the policy of the Government has been introduced into the State parliament. It contains the following provisions: Irrigation land is to be open in settlements to the returning men. Settlers must pay deposit of 3 per cent on capital value and make subsequent payment at the rate of 6 per cent per annum for 31½ years to cover the interest and purchase money. In case of soldiers from active service no payments for the first three years. In addition. advances will be made by the State government up to 70 per cent of the value of improvements with a maximum of about $2,500. Previous agricultural experience is required before taking up land.

QUEENSLAND.

The discharged soldiers' settlement act (No. 32) was passed in 1917. It provides facilities not only for the settlement of ex-service men of the Commonwealth but extends it also to men of the United Kingdom and its allies. Crown lands and lands resumed by the State government are offered for settlement in "perpetual lease." No rent is required during the first three years, but after that time survey fees will be payable in 10 installments, and rent must be paid. On Crown lands the rent will be 1½ per cent of the capital value of the land. At the end of 15 years the rent will be determined by the land court. The lease will contain provisions for making improvements, for preparing the land, for stocking the farm and erecting buildings—up to a sum not exceeding about $6,000. Advances to that amount can be secured from the Government savings bank, repayable by installments extending over 40 years. It is understood that an area of 60,000 acres has already been set aside by the Government in advance of this proposed legislation.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

By the returned soldiers' settlement act of 1916 (7 Geo. V, No. 1264), the State government has set aside two large blocks of land and liberal advances and conditions will be given returning soldiers. The administration of the land is in the hands of the land board.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

A reservation of land has been made by the Government for the returning soldiers. Settlement on 160 acres, subject only to survey fees, is provided, and the repayment of these fees, together with charges against preliminary improvements, with the repayments of capital values, extend over 30 years. Loans can be for their returning soldiers indicates that much secured from the State agricultural bank. On each settlement a central farm, where soldiers can obtain practical training in agriculture, will be established under State supervision.

TASMANIA.

Under the returned soldiers' settlement act of 1916 (7 Geo. V, chap. 20), free grants of land are made to service men from Tasmania. The act provides for the sale or lease to returning men of the Australian forces and those from the United Kingdom, up to 200 acres. A sum of money up to $2,500 may be advanced for improvements, implements, and stock, to be repaid in installments. No rates or taxes for four years will be payable by returning men. The legislation provides that some previous agricultural experience is necessary, otherwise the State farm at Deloraine will give adequate training necessary.

NEW ZEALAND.

The discharged soldiers' settlement act was passed in 1915 (6 Geo. V, 45), and amended in 1916, with a view to settling soldiers on the land. Provisions are made in the acts for the setting apart of areas of land for selection by discharged soldiers, and facilities are given whereby holdings may be acquired on easy terms. Advances may be made to selectors for clearing and improving the land, erecting buildings, and purchasing stock. Preference is likewise given to soldiers at the ordinary land sales. Following the example of the requirements for colonization, men who have had no previous farming experience, can arrange for training on the State farms. These acts apply only to men belonging to the New Zealand forces, and residents of the Dominion who have served in active military and naval forces.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

It is understood that the Union Government is working on a plan for settlement for a limited number of ex-service men with special qualifications for land development.

FRANCE.

On April 9, 1918, President Poincare signed a law providing for the acquisition of small rural properties by soldier and civilian victims of the war. It provides in part for "individual mortgage loans to facilitate acquisition, parceling out, transformation, and reconstitution of small rural properties of which the value does not exceed 10,000 francs." The loans are to be made from the agricultural lending societies at a rate of 1 per cent, with a term of 25 years. Advances for improvements are provided for, and a special commission is appointed to administer the law.

Since a large part of the soldiers of France are landowners, it is evident that the problem of the demobilization of the armies at the end of the war will be a simple one. The French soldiers will simply return to their farm homes.

SOLDIER SETTLEMENT PLANS

[Compiled by United States

Country.	Act.	By whom administered.	Aid given.			Appropriation.
			Amount.	Time.	Interest.	
Dominion of Canada.	Soldier settlement act, Aug. 29, 1917.	Soldier settlement board of 3 members; advisory boards in each Province.	Advances $2,500 on first mortgage.	20 equal payments, first 2 deferred.	5 per cent...	$2,916,000.....
Ontario.....	Act No. 150, 1916.....	Deputy minister of lands.	Dominion amount of $2,500, and Provincial amount of $500 for stock and tools.	20 years.....	....do..... 6 per cent...	$5,000,000 (March, 1918)
British Columbia.	6 Geo. V, 59, 1916.....	Agricultural credit commission.	Dominion amount of $2,500; fund to be provided.	.....do.....	5 per cent...	Empowers board to to spend $500,000 per year to purchase private land.
New Brunswick..	6 Geo. V, 9, April, 1916.	Farm settlement board.	Dominion amount $2,500 and $500, to $1,500 by Province.	.....do.....	.....do.....	No data.....
Australia (300,000 soldiers).	Conference in 1917 of Federal and State authorities.	Board consisting of minister from each State.	Plans for advancing money.	Data later....	Data later...	$100,000,000.....
New South Wales	Returned soldiers settlement act No. 21, 1916, amended 1917.	Minister for lands.....	Advance up to $2,500 on improvements.	Lease.....	2½ per cent on capital value.	No data.....
Victoria.....	Discharged soldiers settlement act, Oct. 22, 1917.	Victoria land purchase and management board and State water commission.	Advances up to 70 per cent of value of improvements, maximum $2,500.	31½ years.....	6 per cent...	$11,250,000.....
Queensland.....	Discharged soldiers settlement act, 1917.	Minister for lands and land court.	$2,500 buildings, $3,500 equipment; survey fee; annual rent.	40 years..... 25 years..... 10 years..... Perpetual....	3½ to 5 per cent. 5 per cent... 1½ per cent on capital value.	$50,000 for administration only, so far.
South Australia..	Soldier settlement act, 1916, 7, Geo. V.	Land board and land settlement advisory commission.	Advances promised up to $2,400.	21 years.....	4 per cent...	$220,000.....
New Zealand.....	Discharged soldiers settlement act, 1916, amended 1917 (6, Geo. V, 45, 1916).	Name not given.....	Advances made for clearing, etc.	No data.....	No data.....	$3,000,000.....
Tasmania.....	Returned soldier settlement act, 1916, 7, Geo. V, 20.	Minister of lands.....	Advances up to $2,500.	21 years, no payment first year.	3½ to 5 per cent.	$750,000.....
United Kingdom.	6 and 7 Geo. V, c. 38...	Board of agriculture and fisheries.	No data.....	No data.....	No data.....	$10,000,000 asked for...
Union of South Africa.	Land settlement act, 1912, and amendments 1917.	Minister of lands and land board.	$1,250 on stock and equipment; advances up to $25 per month to families.	3½ and 7 years	4½ per cent..	Appropriations by provincial parliament for purchase of private lands.

OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Reclamation Service.]

Lands (areas set aside).		Tenure.	Training.	Operation of act.	Capital necessary.
Public.	Private.				
All Dominion lands within 15 miles of railroad reserved. Free entry, 160 acres, Manitoba, Alberta, Saskatchewan.	No data	Free grant	Demonstration farms or with approved farmers employed at current wages.	606 applicants for $690,800 approved; no colonies yet; special transportation rates.	Some capital in order to secure loan.
100 acres each; 10 acres cleared cooperatively; received patent in 5 years.	do	Patent given in 5 years	Monteith experiment farm. Wages, single men $2.50 a day; married men $1.10 a day and $20 a month to wife and $6 a month to each child.	40 men in first colony; 24 in training; 500 applications on file, first colony, Kapuskasing.	Not absolutely essential, but need some capital in order to secure loan.
Lands granted free, 160 acres; preemption claim for $10.	Grant 160 acres	Free grant	No mention	No data	No data.
20,000 acres set aside. Farms to be 10 to 100 acres.	No data	do	Demonstration farms to be established.	Employment can be obtained until take up farms.	$500 to $2,000 desirable.
No data	do	No data	No data	Circularized and found that 40,000 soldiers wanted land.	No data.
do	1,500,000 acres to be acquired in 18 months; 171,000 acres acquired.	Perpetual lease 2½ per cent on the capital value besides water rent.	Must have 6 months' agricultural experience; education provided.	500 men on holdings. Average size grant 50 acres; 1,000 farms in the Yanco irrigation district.	$250 to $500 desirable.
do	Irrigated lands to be opened in settlements and 500,000 acres for wheat growing.	Purchase in 31½ years. Deposit 3 per cent capital value, 6 per cent annual payments, principal and interest.	Previous agricultural experience required before taking lands.	965 soldiers applied for lands up to July, 1918.	At least $1,500.
60,000 acres Crown lands set aside by minister.	500,000 acres acquired by agreement or compulsorily.	Perpetual lease only; no fee simple title.	Training farms to be established.	Application can be made for farm by relatives and terms can await return.	None mentioned.
No data	3 large blocks, 10,000 acres set aside; $220,000 at $22 per acre.	Perpetual lease	On farms comprising similar land.	Advances made for improvements, equipment, stock, and seed. May purchase land worth $1,500,000 per year.	Some capital desirable.
do	276,000 acres set aside; preference for soldiers.	Lease 66 years or freehold.	Can obtain training at State farms.	624 applications to Mar. 31, 1917.	Do.
Free grant of 100 acres.	Obtain by agreement or condemnation.	99 year lease or purchase after 10 years.	Train at State farm; experience necessary.	No taxes for 4 years. Loans for clearing, fencing, drains, equipment, and seed.	No data
None	Authorized 6,000, increased to 60,000 acres.	Leased	Train on demonstration farm at fair wages.	Working out a larger plan for England and Scotland.	Do.
Allot Crown lands.	Purchase private land at price not to exceed $7,500 for each settler who furnishes one-fifth of price.	Lease for 5 years and option to purchase at price fixed at time of lease, with 20 years to pay.	Training provided	Rent first year, nothing; second and third years, 2 per cent; fourth and fifth years, 3½ per cent; sixth to tenth years, 4 per cent.	Do.

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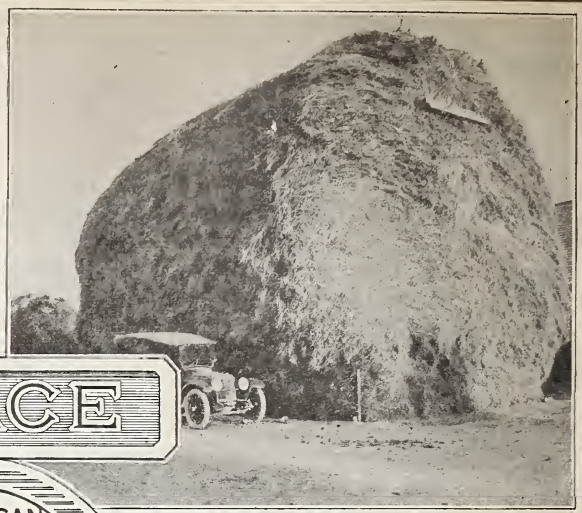

PEACE

THERE CAN BE NO SURER INSURANCE FOR THE NATION THAN TO PUT ITS MEN UPON THE SOIL, AND THERE CAN BE NO WISER INVESTMENT THAT A NATION CAN MAKE THAN TO ADD TO ITS TERRITORY BY TAKING FROM DESERT AND WATERS AND DESOLATION LAND THAT IS NOW USELESS.

PLENTY

RESULTS OF IRRIGATION

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